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FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE ELECTION OF

WASHINGTON PARKER GREGG

AS

CLERK OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

OF THE

CITY OF BOSTON.

CELEBRATED BY A COMPLIMENTARY BANQUET,

GIVEN BY PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL, AT
THE HOTEL VENDOME, JUNE 7, 1882.



Boston:

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

MDCCCLXXXII.





W. P. Gregg



FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ELECTION OF
WASHINGTON PARKER GREGG
AS
CLERK OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON. - (City Council 1882)

CELEBRATED BY A COMPLIMENTARY BANQUET,
GIVEN BY PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL, AT
THE HOTEL VENDOME, JUNE 7, 1882.



Boston:
PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.
MDCCCLXXXII.

US 13588.24

CITY OF BOSTON.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, June 19, 1882.

Ordered, That the Committee on Printing be requested to cause the preparation of an account of the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the election of WASHINGTON P. GREGG as Clerk of the Common Council; and to have one thousand copies of the same printed as a City Document; the expense, not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars, to be charged to the appropriation for Printing.

Passed. Sent down for concurrence.

June 22, came up concurred.

Approved by the Mayor, June 24, 1882.

A true copy.

Attest:

S. F. McCLEARY,
City Clerk.



PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS.

An informal meeting of members of the Common Council of 1882 was held in the President's room on Tuesday evening, April 4th. The President informed the members that the object was to give Mr. GREGG a proper testimonial.

President Charles E. Pratt was chosen Chairman, and Councilman Henry W. B. Cotton, Secretary.

On motion of Councilman Albert F. Lauten, it was voted that a complimentary dinner be tendered Mr. GREGG, and members of past Common Councils be invited to participate.

A committee of five was appointed to make arrangements, with power to add to their number from members of past Councils; and Chairman Pratt was made Chairman of the committee, with associates nominated by members as follows: Councilmen Henry Parkman, Thomas H. Devlin, Prentiss Cummings, Nathan G. Smith, and Albert F. Lauten. City Messenger Alvah H. Peters was added to the committee.

A meeting of this committee was held at City Hall, April 12th. It was voted that Mr. Cummings be requested to act as Secretary, and Mr. Parkman as Treasurer; that the dinner be given on June 7th; and that the Secretary be re-

quested to invite all the Presidents now living to meet this committee on Wednesday, April 19th, at the President's room, at 2 o'clock P.M.

At the meeting of April 19th, several past Presidents of the Council met with the committee, and concurred with enthusiasm in the proposed arrangements. The same committee previously appointed was constituted the Executive Committee, and a Committee of Arrangements was organized as indicated in the following circular, which was issued to the members of the present and past Common Councils of Boston, with results as manifested in the succeeding pages : —

CITY OF BOSTON.

CITY HALL, May 6, 1882.

DEAR SIR, — You are cordially invited to take part in a dinner to be given by past and present members of the Common Council of Boston to WASHINGTON P. GREGG, who is now serving his fortieth year as Clerk of that body. This dinner will take place on the evening of the 7th of June next; but the place cannot be definitely determined until it is known how many are likely to be present. There is reason to believe the attendance will be large, and that the occasion will be one of much interest.

Please answer before May 20th, instant, addressing your reply to Alvah H. Peters, City Hall, Boston, Mass. If you accept, you will receive due notice of the hour and place of the dinner, and where tickets thereto can be obtained. The price of tickets will be three dollars.

Respectfully yours,

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| JOSIAH QUINCY, | President Com. Council, | 1834-5-6 |
| PELEG W. CHANDLER, | " " " | 1844-5 |

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| FRANCIS BRINLEY, | President Com. Council, | 1850-1 |
| HENRY J. GARDNER, | " " " | 1852-3 |
| ALEXANDER H. RICE, | " " " | 1854 |
| JOSEPH STORY, | " " " | 1855 and 1866 |
| OLIVER STEVENS, | " " " | 1856-7 |
| J. PUTNAM BRADLEE, | " " " | 1859-60 |
| JOSEPH H. BRADLEY, | " " " | 1861 |
| JOSHUA D. BALL, | " " " | 1862 |
| GEORGE S. HALE, | " " " | 1863-4 |
| WILLIAM B. FOWLE, | " " " | 1865 |
| WESTON LEWIS, | " " " | 1867 |
| CHARLES H. ALLEN, | " " " | 1868 |
| WILLIAM G. HARRIS, | " " " | 1869 |
| MELVILLE E. INGALLS, | " " " | 1870 |
| MATTHIAS RICH, | " " " | 1871 |
| MARQUIS F. DICKINSON, JR. | " " " | 1872 |
| EDWARD O. SHEPARD, | " " " | 1873-4 |
| HALSEY J. BOARDMAN, | " " " | 1875 |
| J. Q. A. BRACKETT, | " " " | 1876 |
| WILLIAM H. WHITMORE, | " " " | 1879 |
| HARVEY N. SHEPARD, | " " " | 1880 |
| ANDREW J. BAILEY, | " " " | 1881 |
| Executive Committee. | CHARLES E. PRATT, | 1882 |
| | PRENTISS CUMMINGS, | |
| | THOMAS H. DEVLIN, | |
| | ALBERT F. LAUTEN, | |
| | HENRY PARKMAN, | |
| | NATHAN G. SMITH, | |
| | ALVAH H. PETERS, | |

Committee of Arrangements.

According to arrangements, the Banquet took place on the evening of Wednesday, June 7th, at the Hotel Vendome, President Pratt, of the Council of 1882, presiding.

Following are lists of the Presidents and Members of the Common Council of Boston who participated in the Banquet, with the dates of their terms and membership : —

PRESIDENTS.

JOSIAH QUINCY, 1834, '35, '36.
PELEG W. CHANDLER, 1844, '45.
ALEXANDER H. RICE, 1854.
JOSEPH STORY, 1855, '66.
J. PUTNAM BRADLEE, 1859, '60.
JOSHUA D. BALL, 1862.
GEORGE S. HALE, 1863, '64.
CHARLES H. ALLEN, 1868.
WILLIAM G. HARRIS, 1869.
MATTHIAS RICH, 1871.
MARQUIS F. DICKINSON, Jr., 1872.
EDWARD O. SHEPARD, 1873, '74.
J. Q. A. BRACKETT, 1876.
WILLIAM H. WHITMORE, 1879.
HARVEY N. SHEPARD, 1880.
ANDREW J. BAILEY, 1881.
CHARLES E. PRATT, 1881 (from Oct. 27), '82.

MEMBERS.

ANDREW ABBOTT, 1852, '53.
PAUL ADAMS, 1852, '53.
CHARLES H. ALLEN, 1867, '68.
EBENEZER ADAMS, 1873, '74.
BENJAMIN F. ANTHONY, 1879, '80.
J. PUTNAM BRADLEE, 1848, '49, '50, '58, '59, '60.
AARON H. BEAN, 1850, '51, '52.
ANDREW J. BAILEY, 1880, '81.
EDWARD H. BRAINARD, 1854, '55.
LUCIUS A. BIGELOW, 1856.

JOSEPH L. BATES, 1858, '59.
WILLIAM C. BURGESS, 1859, '60, '65, '74, '75, '76.
SAMUEL A. B. BRAGG, 1860.
JOHN C. J. BROWN, 1861.
JOSHUA D. BALL, 1861, '62.
RICHARD BEECHING, 1862, '63, '76, '77.
WILLIAM E. BICKNELL, 1862, '63, '64, '70, '71, '72, '73.
JOHN T. BRADLEE, 1863, '64.
LEWIS J. BIRD, 1863.
CADIS B. BOYCE, 1864, '65.
JARVIS D. BRAMAN, 1865, '66.
HORACE L. BOWKER, 1865.
ROBERT BISHOP, 1868, '70.
GRENVILLE T. W. BRAMAN, 1869.
JOSEPH H. BARNES, 1870, '71.
THOMAS W. BROWN, JR., 1870, '71.
THOMAS BRENNAN, 1871, '72, '73.
WILMON W. BLACKMAR, 1872, '73.
HERMAN D. BRADT, 1870, '71, '72.
GEORGE L. BURT, 1870, '71, '72, '73.
WILLIAM F. BROOKS, 1870, '71, '72.
CHARLES A. BURDITT, 1872, '73, '74, '75.
J. Q. A. BRACKETT, 1873, '74, '75, '76.
FREDERICK BLEILER, 1873, '74.
THOMAS C. BUTLER, 1874.
EDWARD W. BARRY, 1874.
WILLIAM J. BURKE, 1876, '77, '78.
WILLIAM BLANCHARD, 1876, '77.
ALFRED S. BROWN, 1877, '78, '79, '80, '81, '82.
JOHN E. BLAKEMORE, 1879, '80.
DAVID F. BARRY, 1880, '81, '82.
NATHANIEL BRIMBECOM, 1880, '81, '82.
AUSTIN BIGELOW, 1880, '81, '82.
WILLIAM E. BARTLETT, 1881.
BENJAMIN P. BATES, 1882.
HORATIO N. CRANE, 1839, '40.

TESTIMONIAL BANQUET TO

PELEG W. CHANDLER, 1843, '44, '45.
OTIS CLAPP, 1844, '45, '46.
SAMUEL D. CRANE, 1849, '50, '51.
JOHN M. CLARK, 1854.
LINUS M. CHILD, 1862.
MOSES COLEMAN, 1864.
CHARLES CAVERLY, 1866, '67.
II. BURR CRANDALL, 1867.
MILFORD J. COLE, 1869.
ALFRED A. CLATUR, 1871, '72.
PATRICK COLLINS, 1872, '73.
ASA H. CATON, 1872, '73, '74.
SAMUEL S. CUDWORTH, 1873, '74.
URIEL H. CROCKER, 1874, '75, '76, '77, '78.
ISAAC P. CLARKE, 1875, '76, '77.
MICHAEL W. COSTELLO, 1879, '81.
CHARLES F. CURTIS, 1875, '76.
HENRY F. COE, 1877, '78, '79, '80.
GEORGE H. CAVANAGH, 1879.
DUDLEY R. CHILD, 1880, '81, '82.
JOSEPH P. CONNELL, 1881, '82.
HENRY W. B. COTTON, 1881, '82.
PRENTISS CUMMINGS, 1881, '82.
MUNROE CHICKERING, 1882.
GEORGE S. DEXTER, 1855.
JACOB A. DRESSER, 1856, '57.
JOHN S. DAMRELL, 1857.
HORACE DODD, 1861.
SYLVANUS A. DENIO, 1861.
BENJAMIN DEAN, 1865, '66, '73, '74.
THOMAS DINSMORE, 1868, '69.
GEORGE P. DENNY, 1868, '69, '73, '74.
MARQUIS F. DICKINSON, Jr., 1871, '72.
TIMOTHY J. DACEY, 1872, '73.
HARTFORD DAVENPORT, 1872.
FREDERICK B. DAY, 1874, '75.

GEORGE L. DAMON, 1875.
JOHN H. DEE, 1877.
THOMAS H. DEVLIN, 1878, '79, '80, '81, '82.
OTIS B. DUDLEY, 1879, '80, '81.
JOHN DOHERTY, 1879, '80.
OTIS D. DANA, 1881, '82.
PATRICK J. DONOVAN, 1882.
JAMES DEVINE, 1870, '71, '72, '79, '80.
ROWLAND ELLIS, 1838.
STEPHEN L. EMERY, 1871, '72.
OTIS EDDY, 1881, '82.
CHARLES B. FARLEY, 1855.
EZRA FARNSWORTH, 1856.
BENJAMIN FRENCH, 1857, '58.
MORRIS C. FITCH, 1861, '62, '63.
NOAH W. FARLEY, 1865, '66.
WILLIAM FROST, 1869, '70.
MICHAEL J. FLATLEY, 1873, '74.
J. AUGUSTUS FELT, 1875, '76, '77.
JOHN W. FRASER, 1876, '77, '82.
ABRAHAM FIRTH, 1876.
JAMES G. FREEMAN, 1880, '81, '82.
JONAS H. FRENCH, 1853, '55, '56.
MARTIN T. FOLAN, 1880, '81.
FRANK F. FARWELL, 1880, '81.
JOHN B. FITZPATRICK, 1880, '81, '82.
WILLIAM C. FISK, 1881, '82.
EDWARD P. FISK, 1882.
JOHN D. W. FRENCH, 1882.
WILLIAM H. FRIZZELL, 1882.
JOHN GARDNER, 1844, '46.
WILLIAM W. GREENOUGH, 1847, '48, '49.
FREDERICK GRANT, 1861.
HOLLIS R. GRAY, 1861, '68, '69, '70, '76.
THOMAS GAFFIELD, 1864.
THOMAS GOGIN, 1864, '67.

DANIEL G. GRAFTON, 1866, '67.
GEORGE GOING, 1869, '70.
ALBERT GAY, 1869, '70.
ISAAC P. GRAGG, 1871, '72, '76.
JOHN GOLDTHWAIT, 1874, '75.
CURTIS GUILD, 1875, '76.
MALCOLM S. GREENOUGH, 1879, '80, '81, '82.
JESSE M. GOVE, 1881.
SAMUEL HATCH, 1853, '54, '55, '56.
EZRA HARLOW, 1856.
WILLIAM G. HARRIS, 1855, '57, '68, '69.
GEORGE S. HALE, 1857, '63, '64.
LYMAN S. HAPGOOD, 1860, '61.
ANDREW HALL, 1867, '69, '70.
HENRY D. HYDE, 1866, '67.
SAMUEL B. HOPKINS, 1868, '69.
WILLIAM HOBBS, 1868, '69.
CHARLES H. HERSEY, 1871, '72.
BENJAMIN HEATH, 1872.
WILLIAM H. HART, 1872.
ANDREW J. HALL, 1873.
JOHN T. HICKS, 1874.
MARTIN L. HAM, 1876, '77.
SALMON P. HIBBARD, 1877, '78.
GEORGE W. HOLLIS, 1878, '80.
MARTIN M. HANCOCK, 1879, '80.
JOHN T. HAYES, 1879.
WILLIAM H. HOWARD, 1879, '80.
THOMAS N. HART, 1879, '80, '81.
EUGENE B. HAGAR, 1880, '81.
JOHN P. HILTON, 1879, '80, '81, '82.
SAMUEL J. HARRISON, 1881, '82.
GEORGE L. HUNTRESS, 1881, '82.
J. FRANK HOWLAND, 1882.
EZRA C. HUTCHINS, 1839, '40, '41.
LEWIS JOSSELYN, 1835, '36, '37, '38.

BENJAMIN JAMES, 1848, '49.
GEORGE S. JONES, 1854, '55.
JUSTIN JONES, 1859, '60, '61.
JOHN F. JARVIS, 1867.
THOMAS L. JENKS, 1868, '69.
STEPHEN G. JONES, 1876.
DANIEL D. KELLY, 1853, '54, '59.
SAMUEL B. KROGMAN, 1859.
MATTHEW KEANY, 1862, '63, '64, '68, '69.
JAMES M. KEITH, 1868, '69.
JOHN KELLEY, 1875, '76, '77.
PAUL H. KENDRICKEN, 1878, '79, '80.
JOHN W. LEIGHTON, 1861, '62, '63, '68, '69.
GEORGE W. LEARNARD, 1855.
WINSLOW B. LUCAS, 1869.
GEORGE E. LEARNARD, 1869, '70.
JOHN H. LOCKE, 1871, '72, '79.
HORACE LORING, 1872.
EMERY D. LEIGHTON, 1875.
OMAR LORING, 1875, '76.
GEORGE H. LOVERING, 1878, '79.
ALBERT F. LAUTEN, 1878, '79, '80, '81, '82.
CLARENCE P. LOVELL, 1880, '81, '82.
WILLIAM MARBLE, 1855.
WILLIAM S. MCGOWAN, 1858.
NATHANIEL MCKAY, 1864, '65, '67.
JOHN MILLER, 1865, '66.
L. FOSTER MORSE, 1868.
JOHN S. MOULTON, 1870, '71, '72.
JOHN B. MARTIN, 1872, '73, '74.
JOHN W. MAHAN, 1873.
OSCAR B. MOWRY, 1877, '78, '79.
THOMAS R. MATHEWS, 1881, '82.
ARTHUR F. MEANS, 1881.
NAHUM M. MORRISON, 1856, '57, '65, '66, '67, '75, '76, '81, '82.
P. JAMES MAGUIRE, 1879, '80, '81, '82.

PETER MORRISON, 1881, '82.
FRANCIS J. MURPHY, 1881, '82.
GODFREY MORSE, 1882.
JAMES A. MURPHY, 1882.
DANIEL McLAUGHLIN, 1882.
CHARLES NOWELL, 1855.
INCREASE E. NOYES, 1866, '67.
GEORGE NOWELL, 1866, '67.
JOHN F. NEWTON, 1875, '76.
JESSE L. NASON, 1878, '79.
SAMUEL P. OLIVER, 1845, '46, '47.
JOHN OSBORNE, JR., 1875, '76.
CHARLES H. PARKER, 1846, '47, '48.
BENJAMIN F. PALMER, 1857, '58.
TIMOTHY R. PAGE, 1858, '59, '61.
AUGUSTUS PARKER, 1868, '70, '75, '76.
JEREMIAH H. POTE, 1869.
WILLIAM POPE, 1870, '71.
JOHN O. POOR, 1869, '70.
ALBERT C. POND, 1870, '71.
FREDERICK PEASE, 1871, '72, '73, '74.
WASHINGTON L. PRESCOTT, 1871, '72, '73.
CHARLES E. POWERS, 1873, '74.
FRANCIS W. PRAY, 1874, '79, '80, '81.
E. PEARL, 1876, '77, '78.
CHARLES E. PRATT, 1877, '79, '80, '81, '82.
CHARLES S. PERHAM, 1877, '78.
CHARLES H. PLIMPTON, 1878, '79, '80.
HENRY PARKMAN, 1879, '80, '81, '82.
ALFRED N. PROCTOR, 1882.
FREEBORN F. RAYMOND, 1839, '40, '41, '48, '49, '50.
JOEL RICHARDS, 1853, '56, '69.
ALEXANDER II. RICE, 1853, '54.
MOSES W. RICHARDSON, 1864, '65, '66, '77, '78.
MATTHIAS RICH, 1866, '70, '71.
JOSEPH T. RYAN, 1868, '69, '70, '71.

GILES H. RICH, 1869.
SOLOMON S. ROWE, 1870, '71.
FREDERICK S. RISTEEN, 1872, '73.
SAMUEL H. RUSSELL, 1874.
GEORGE L. RUFFIN, 1876, '77.
JAMES B. RICHARDSON, 1877, '78.
CHARLES H. REED, 1877.
PETER S. ROBERTS, 1877, '78.
ISAAC ROSNOSKY, 1878, '79, '81.
LUCIUS SLADE, 1858, '59.
ALVAN SIMONDS, 1847, '48.
JOSEPH STORY, 1855, '56, '65, '66.
JAMES M. STEVENS, 1856, '57.
L. MILES STANDISH, 1856, '58, '59.
SIDNEY A. STETSON, 1857, '60.
GEORGE T. SAMPSON, 1860, '61.
GEORGE P. SANGER, 1860.
GEORGE O. SHATTUCK, 1862.
FRANKLIN H. SPRAGUE, 1862, '63.
SOLOMON B. STEBBINS, 1864, '65.
WILLIAM J. SMITH, 1870, '71.
JOEL SEAVERN, 1870.
JAMES SMITH, 1871, '72.
ZENAS E. SMITH, 1874, '75.
EDWARD O. SHEPARD, 1872, '73, '74.
JOHN SWEETSER, 1874, '75, '76.
EDWIN SIBLEY, 1874, '75, '76, '77.
BENJAMIN F. STACEY, 1875.
GEORGE F. SHEPARD, 1876, '77.
JOHN A. SMARDON, 1876, '77.
CHRISTOPHER J. SPENCELEY, 1876, '77, '78.
HARVEY N. SHEPARD, 1878, '79, '80.
JOHN J. SMITH, 1878.
NATHAN SAWYER, 1878, '79, '80.
HENRY N. SAWYER, 1878, '79, '80.
HENRY W. SWIFT, 1879, '80.

ALBERT T. STEARNS, 1879.
NATHAN G. SMITH, 1881, '82.
REUBEN S. SWAN, 1881.
FELIX A. STRANGE, 1882.
GEORGE W. TUXBURY, 1857, '58.
CHARLES R. TRAIN, 1867, '68.
HORACE G. TUCKER, 1868, '69, '70.
WILLIAM TAYLOR, 1870, '71, '76.
EZRA J. TRULL, 1875, '76.
WILLIAM TUTTLE, 1876.
BENJAMIN H. TICKNOR, 1876.
GEORGE L. THORNDIKE, 1877, '78.
ROBERT M. THOMPSON, 1877, '78.
LEWIS R. TUCKER, 1880.
FREDERICK B. TAYLOR, 1882.
JAMES H. UPHAM, 1873, '77.
EDMUND B. VANNEVAR, 1869, '70, '71.
ALDEN E. VILES, 1880, '81.
ENOCH H. WAKEFIELD, 1842, '43.
CLEMENT WILLIS, 1843, '44, '45, '46, '65.
BARNET F. WARNER, 1856, '57.
ALEXANDER WADSWORTH, 1858, '60, '63, '64, '65, '66, '68, '69.
LEVI L. WILLCUTT, 1859, '74, '75, '76.
WILLIAM E. WEBSTER, 1860.
WILLIAM W. WARREN, 1863, '64, '65.
CHARLES WOODBURY, 1863, '64.
WILLIAM WOOLLEY, 1867, '68, '69, '70.
HENRY W. WILSON, 1867, '68, '75.
SOLOMON A. WOODS, 1869, '70, '71.
DAVID L. WEBSTER, 1871, '72.
JAMES D. K. WILLIS, 1871.
DAVID WHISTON, 1872, '73, '74.
EDWARD P. WILBUR, 1872, '73, '74.
HIRAM A. WRIGHT, 1872.
W. ELLIOT WOODWARD, 1873, '74.
WILLIAM H. WHITMORE, 1875, '79, '80, '81, '82.

ALEXANDER F. WADSWORTH, 1875.
 JOHN H. WALSH, 1875.
 EDWIN R. WEBSTER, 1876, '77.
 GEORGE B. WEBSTER, 1877, '78.
 ALFRED I. WOODBURY, 1876.
 ROGER WOLCOTT, 1877, '78, '79.
 JAMES WOOLLEY, 1878, '79.
 CHARLES WHEELER, 1878, '79, '80, '81.
 FRANCIS J. WARD, 1878, '79.
 JOHN P. J. WARD, 1880.
 NELSON S. WAKEFIELD, 1881, '82.
 CHARLES H. WISE, 1882.

There were also present :—

HIS HONOR SAMUEL A. GREEN, Mayor.
 ROBERT H. EDDY.
 WILLIAM H. HARTON.
 GEORGE B. WHEATON.
 WILLIAM H. LEE, Clerk of Committees.
 JOSEPH O'KANE, Assistant Clerk of Common Council.
 ALVAH H. PETERS, City Messenger.
 CHARLES E. SILLOWAY, } Assistant Messengers.
 HENRY H. OSBORN, }
 WILLIAM O. ROBSON, }
 WILLIAM B. SMART, }
 STEPHEN O. SHERMAN, }
 FRANK I. GRAY, } Reporters.
 THOMAS D. PARKER, }
 WILLIAM E. DECROW, }
 JOHN A. FYNES, }
 WESTON F. HUTCHINS, }

The music was furnished by the Cadet Band.



THE BANQUET.

In calling the company to order, President PRATT said : —

Gentlemen of the Common Council,—

For whether Governors, Mayors, Aldermen, Commissioners, or by whatever titles you may have been called since you were in the Common Council, we are all to-night "Gentlemen of the Common Council,"—there exists a large degree of curiosity to know who is the senior member. In order to satisfy that curiosity I will ask the gentleman present who *thinks* he is the senior member to rise ; and before he does it I give him the assurance that we will not deem him an old man, because seniority in the Council is reckoned from the date of office, and not of birth. I will also caution him that unless he was in the Common Council before 1830 he need not rise, because we have one of that year at this end of the table.¹ Will the senior member please rise?

¹ It appears by the preceding list of those present that Mr. Lewis Josselyn, a member in 1835, '36, '37, '38, was also present, being the next oldest member.

Mr. EZRA C. HUTCHINS, of the Common Council of 1839, arose, and the company joined in drinking his health.

President PRATT continued : —

Gentlemen, this is a large room, and there are many in it ; and I would like to suggest now, for the pleasure of those who are to speak to-night, as well as of those who wish to hear, that it will require more caution than usual to observe quiet, in order that the speakers may be heard.

The pleasant duty devolves upon me of saying a few words by way of introduction and apology for the assembling of this large company. If there be any virtue, if there be any honor, in having served faithfully and generously and impartially and well for forty years in an office ; if there is to be received from one's friends, toward the decline of life, any testimonial of esteem and high regard and affection in which one is held, I am sure that he whose portrait is imperfectly stamped upon each of our bills of fare, — he in whose honor we have gathered to-night, — is entitled to that credit and that tribute. (Loud applause.) In a city where faithfulness in public office is a rule, with hardly an exception ; in a city where the offices are not held at the option or the chance of any political whim or revolution, where each one employed by the city is eminent for the

courtesy and efficiency with which he fills his office, it is a rare distinction to become distinguished ; it is a rare and bright honor to be so conspicuous amongst all the rest that the members of present and past City Governments should come together to express their affectionate regard.

We have known during these forty years, under circumstances which were at first difficult to us all, our graceful, unobtrusive, accomplished Clerk of the Common Council, WASHINGTON P. GREGG. (Loud applause.) He was a member of the Common Council himself in 1830 and 1831, so long ago that we can better appreciate the length of time by measurement. Fifteen years before I was born he was a member from "Ward Four." I know that he held the office of Assistant Clerk of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ; that he was a member of the bar, and a practising lawyer in the city of Boston before he was Clerk of the Common Council ; and with what credit he may have served in other stations there are older men here who are better able to say than I. But I can tell of the manner in which Mr. GREGG has conducted himself as Clerk of the Common Council. Year after year, as the years come and go, and as Common Councils come and go, with new, untutored, and unintroduced members, they have always found a faithful friend

and reliable guide in this faithful officer. There are others who, like myself, can appreciate the kindness of our friend from another stand-point. Here are those who have been called upon to preside over the deliberations of the Common Council, and to be responsible, amongst other things, for the proper disposition of papers. I have been told that in one of the States of the Union, when the Legislature is in session, it has been the custom, for several years, of the friends of any bill that had passed one branch, to appoint a committee to watch the progress of the bill to the other branch. Without confidence in the officers of the two branches; with sad experience that bills were spirited away, or were pigeon-holed, or folded in wrong files,—so that if they originated in the House of Representatives they did not reach the Senate, or if they originated in the Senate they did not reach the House,—it became the custom, and still is the custom, to appoint these committees to watch the progress of bills to the other house. Now that is merely an instance to hint at what we all expect of the Clerk of the Common Council,—expect it tacitly, without ever expressing it, without ever doubting it would be done, without ever thinking of it, because we knew who was the Clerk, and we knew that any paper originating in the Common Council would be found in its due and proper place

in the course of business. (Applause.) The President of the Common Council, presiding over a body now, I may remark, composed of seventy-two members, after long meetings, and with a multitude of business, finds there is enough to tax his mind if he keeps the run of business during the meeting; and when the meeting is done he dismisses it to some one's care, and goes home for rest. When the President returns the next day to sign the orders, ordinances, and resolves, he has found—at least during the short period of my experience—all the papers in due order, everything correctly minuted and certified by the Clerk, everything arranged on the desk that he was to sit at to affix his signature, and the courteous and generous Clerk of the Common Council there, ready with his pen and blotting-paper to pass the papers under the pen, and to fold them after they had been signed. (Applause.) There are a thousand ways which will occur, especially to those who have presided over the Common Council, and even to all who have ever visited or sat in that chamber, in which Mr. GREGG has shown his amiability and wisdom that I need not cite,—delicate questions of parliamentary law, precedents of practice, points of propriety, incidental matters of judgment, former action, facts in the

departments, for which his recollection or his opinion and aid have not been taxed in vain.

It occurred to some of the members of the Common Council of this year that it would be a very pleasant thing to give some kind of expression to the regard in which Mr. GREGG is held. An informal meeting was held in the "President's room," a committee was appointed, and the further proceedings you have been made aware of. I need allude to but one thing,—the prompt and enthusiastic cordiality with which the proposition for this dinner was received by all the past members. (Applause.) There was a personal interest about it which was even surprising to see, and which must have been very grateful to our friend if he could have known it all.

But I must not attempt a speech, because there are so many others here who are more eloquent, and whose years entitle them to take the time, and whom, I am sure, you prefer to hear. Knowing the diffidence, the retiring modesty of our friend on my right, I shall not make any eulogistic expression of your regard for him, our dear *young* friend still. (Loud applause.) We love him, we honor him, and we have taken this method of letting him know it.

It is true we might have presented him with

something which he could have placed on exhibition for his friends to view, or we might have sought in several other ways, that would readily occur to any one thinking of it, a testimonial of our regards. But this is true: that riches, and ornaments, and trophies, and whatever else is material, may be lost, may be destroyed, must sometime be left behind; but the warm regard, the personal love and honor of three hundred and twenty friends, such as have gathered here to-night, is something that cannot perish, and of which our friend cannot be robbed. (Applause.) This cordial, sincere, and heartfelt affection will go with our friend; and I can assure you and him that Colonel Wolcott will need to have a larger hotel than this in 1892, when we may be permitted to celebrate the *fiftieth* anniversary of our friend's service. (Applause.)

This personal love and honor which we seek to express to-night, and the character which has won them, cannot be taken from him in this world; and we may believe he will carry these with him into the next, — at least we may hope that in that future sphere of happiness to which he may be called, possibly before some of us, but to be united with all of us hereafter, this character and these tributes will be a portion of the riches which he will be able to take with him from this life to that. (Applause.)

Gentlemen, I ask you to rise and drink with me the health of WASHINGTON P. GREGG, our faithful Clerk.

The company drank the toast standing, and Mr. GREGG arose to respond. He was received with three tremendous cheers.

MR. GREGG'S ADDRESS.

To you, Mr. President, and to the past and present members of the Common Councils of my native city, I offer my grateful salutations. To you all, individually and collectively, I would express my heartfelt acknowledgments of the many acts of kindness and consideration I have received at your hands, during the long line of unbroken years in which you and your colleagues, the Mayors and the Aldermen, have so faithfully and successfully administered the affairs of the City Government. And especially would I express my appreciation of the high and most unexpected honor conferred upon me by the reception and banquet which, with so much kindness of feeling, you have at this time been pleased to give in commemoration of my fortieth election to office. I should be exceedingly happy, Mr. President, to reply in appropriate terms, if I could, to the cordial invitation of my many gifted friends, to whose voices and

discussions I have so often attentively listened with the greatest pleasure and profit. But for one whose position has been a place of silence for forty years it is difficult, if not almost impossible, to make an adequate response upon an extraordinary occasion like the present, or even to attempt at any time to enlighten or entertain so many experienced, able, and eloquent gentlemen as are assembled within these hospitable halls to-night.

With the members of most of the Common Councils of the city, Mr. President, I have indeed been associated for a long and uninterrupted succession of years. During this very long period of time I have not failed to remark, with the most lively interest and satisfaction, the facility and despatch with which the business of the City Government has been conducted, the love of order, the punctuality and urbanity of the delegates from the several districts, their intelligence and independence, and their devotion to the general welfare.

Nor, Mr. President, is it at all surprising that the proceedings of their numerous weekly sessions should have been carried on, from first to last, with so much careful consideration, and been attended with such beneficial results to all classes in the community, when it is borne in mind who are the individuals chosen by the people from year to year to rep-

resent their interests and conduct the government of the metropolis of New England.

And now, in looking down the corridors of that space which measures forty years of time, I behold, in the indescribable and seemingly endless vista, a long procession, consisting of distinct companies of my fellow-citizens; the several companies being nearly alike in number, but each differing in some other respects from that which preceded it, — a procession constantly being enlarged by the addition of a new company, formed every year, and falling into line, one company after another, and another, until the multitude becomes almost too great to be enumerated. They are of all ages. They come from all classes and ranks in society. They are merchants, mechanics and manufacturers, presidents and directors of banking, insurance and other corporations, authors, teachers, editors, printers and publishers, jurists, members of all the learned professions, naval and military men, farmers, architects and engineers, builders of ships for the sea, and of the great iron highways for the land. Elected every year on account of their practical knowledge of business and public affairs, their learning, talents, and character, these gentlemen, with their colleagues of the other branch, are the administrators of the government of this city.

At the head of each company there is a captain, chosen by its members, as they were by the people, for superior qualifications; and this is one of the great reasons why the several companies have always been fully equipped, in order of battle, and have always been led on to victory.

Their names are a host by themselves. To do justice to their lives and their noble deeds in behalf of our beloved city and country would require whole volumes of descriptions. But their names are not confined to the rolls of the municipal authorities, nor to places of high trust and responsibility in the great mercantile, benevolent, educational, and religious institutions of the land. For afterward they are also inscribed with those of the members of the Legislature of Massachusetts, and of the Congress of the United States; of the Attorney-Generals of the State; of the District-Attorneys, and other functionaries of the central government; of the Judges of the Courts; of the Speakers of the House of Representatives; of the Presidents of the Senate; of the Justices, the Chief Justices, and the Governors of the Commonwealth.

These are the men seen by multitudes of their fellow-citizens as well as by myself daily passing for the last forty years and upward to and from the portals of the City Hall, when it was at the Old

State-House in State street; then afterward, when it was at the Old Court-House in School street; then again, when at the Mechanics' Building in Chauncy street, and in still later years at the present City Hall, between School street and Court square. These are the men who, with their colleagues, ever vigilant for the protection of the lives and property of the people, and all the while safely holding in their hands the Magna Charta of our liberties granted by the State,—these are the men who, in conjunction with their patriotic Mayors and Aldermen, and their fellow-citizens at large, have been earnestly engaged all these years in building up this metropolis, tier upon tier, and in carrying it forward and upward to its present height of prosperity, power, and greatness.

The numerous and important enterprises of the past, with which you are all so familiar, have not been accomplished without vast outlays of labor and money. Perhaps no more simple illustration of the growth of the city can be given than that embodied in the following brief statement of its valuation and expenditures at different periods during the last half century:—

| | 1830. | 1860. | 1880. |
|------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Valuation . . . | \$60,000,000 | \$275,000,000 | \$750,000,000 |
| Tax | 260,000 | 2,500,000 | 9,000,000 |
| Interest . . . | 45,000 | 162,000 | 1,500,000 |
| Salaries of teachers . | 50,000 | 287,000 | 1,113,000 |
| Repairs of streets . | 20,000 | 204,000 | 1,000,000 |
| Watch, or police . | 11,000 | 230,000 | 800,000 |
| Fire Department . | 15,000 | 112,000 | 600,000 |
| Care of Common, etc. | 1,000 | 14,000 | 60,000 |
| Sewers | 5,000 | 55,000 | 134,000 |
| Fourth of July . . | 200 | 13,500 | 28,000 |
| Health Department . | 13,000 | 140,000 | 335,000 |
| City debt | 900,000 | 9,000,000 | 40,000,000 |

Although the present debt may at first appear to be large, yet to meet it there is already a sinking fund of nearly sixteen millions of dollars.

Having thus glanced at the growth of the city, let us take a look at Boston as it is to-day. We will consider briefly: —

First. The commanding situation of Boston; its area of thirty-six square miles, instead of its original upland area of one square mile; its great and constantly increasing population; its four hundred miles of streets and avenues; its crowded stores, warehouses, manufactories, and other places of trade and business; its monuments, public and private libraries; its collections of paintings, statuary, and other works of art; its various schools,

academies, colleges, and churches, hospitals, hotels, and theatres; its numerous parks, squares, and commons; the costly structures of different societies and associations, and that new and splendid portion of the city — *urbis in urbe* — in the vicinity of the Public Garden, on the land of the Back Bay, — reclaimed from the sea, — whose stately buildings rise where not many years ago the vessels rose and fell with the flowing and ebbing of the tide.

Second. Its suburbs, extending inland in every direction, with their charming cottages, villas, and country-seats, delightful drives, groves, gardens, lakes, and fountains, — the whole forming at almost every turn a magnificent panorama of picturesque and ever-changing scenery.

Third. Its large and flourishing neighboring towns, about as near to the centre of Boston as the upper part of New York is to the New York City Hall, viz., Hingham, Weymouth, Milton, and Quincy; Hyde Park, Dedham, Brookline, Newton, Watertown, and Cambridge with its famous seat of learning; Belmont, Malden, Medford, Melrose, and Somerville; Everett, Arlington, Chelsea, and Revere; Saugus, Lynn, Winthrop, and Nahant; each almost as much a part of this city as is each one of its own thriving districts of Dorchester, Roxbury, Brighton, Charlestown, South Boston, and East Boston, and

all alive in friendly rivalry with each other in new industries, productions, and improvements of every description; and all beneficially affected, directly or indirectly, by every step of advancement taken by either of the others, and all consequently increasing in population, business, and wealth, nearly if not quite as fast as the city itself.

Fourth. Its broad and capacious harbor, opening into the immense Bay of Massachusetts, between Point Shirley and Point Allerton, and containing an area of seventy-five square miles, where the proudest navy in the world might ride in safety; its many beautiful islands, beaches and headlands, which, when illuminated at night, as it has been predicted they will be, from the tops of towers by the electric light, will afford new and surprising views of the harbor and surrounding shores,—ever changing with ship and steamer, and ever attractive to citizens and visitors.¹

¹ In 1866 the Board of Harbor Commissioners was established at the suggestion of the Hon. Josiah Quincy, who was four times a member of the Common Council, three times its President, four times Mayor of Boston, and twice President of the Senate of Massachusetts. During the eleven years of the existence of that Board, by means of the payments for tide-water displaced, and through the various grants made by the general government at their suggestion, the channels were deepened to twenty-three feet at low water, the headlands protected by granite walls, a system of dredging established, by which the improvements of the flats at South Boston and at the mouth of the Mystic river were secured, and the system devised which is being carried out by their able successors, the Harbor and Land Commissioners.

Fifth. The miles of docks and wharves, projecting from all parts of the city that border upon the water, with the terminal facilities for ocean steamships in the city proper, and in the districts of Charlestown, East Boston, and South Boston, and with the other proposed undertakings of similar if not greater character in other parts of the harbor, all of which are upon a scale of magnitude and convenience not surpassed by those of any other city of the like population and commerce.

Sixth. The Cochituate Water Works,—that most important enterprise, upon the construction of which more than sixteen millions of dollars have

As stated in their last report, "there is probably no other harbor known to commerce, which, in its natural conditions of configuration, marginal ground, basins, channels, entrance, and shelter, is capable of affording equal facilities in so concentrated a manner as the main inner basin of Boston Harbor. It is in general form a hollow square, on each available side of which natural channels mark natural lines of frontage, of such a character that docks and piers can be constructed along these lines of any size and depth of approach, and berth capacity within the range of the most diversified requirements, and with a degree of economy and mechanical facility unparalleled in harbor qualifications. While the heavier vessels of the present time have now to wait in the open sea for the tide to lift them over the bars of New York and Philadelphia, they can pass into Boston Harbor without detention and without fear." Prof. Henry Mitchell, of the U.S. Advisory Council for Boston Harbor, says, "The great merit of Boston Harbor lies in a happy conjunction of many favorable elements, among which we may distinguish as most important, the facility and safety of its approaches, the ample width and depth of its entrance, and, above all, the shelter and tranquillity of its roadsteads. Perhaps there is no other harbor in the world where the inlets from the ocean are better adjusted to the amplitude of the interior basin, or where excellent holding grounds are so easy of access and yet so land-locked."

been expended, and the revenue of which for the past year was over eleven hundred thousand dollars.

Seventh. The Fire Department, the Public Institutions, the Public Buildings, and the Public Schools, requiring constant care and attention, and an expenditure during the last year of between seven and eight thousand dollars a day.

Eighth. The home industries and commercial ventures of the citizens of Boston and the surrounding towns, their vast capital and possessions, the intrinsic value of which, including all their properties, investments, and securities in this and in every other State, north, east, south, and west, would probably exceed all present belief or supposition.

Ninth. The work constantly going on of making new streets and of widening old ones; the street railways increasing every year in number; the greater lines of railroads connecting with other lines which penetrate, not the United States alone, but the regions of Mexico and of British North America, thereby adding to all preëxisting means of quick transit and traffic, and creating new fields for agriculture, commerce, and manufactures, both in the interior and at the very extremities of this entire continent, — in all of which Boston capital and Boston enterprise are more or less largely interested.

Though Boston may not become so populous as some other American cities, yet when, with its other advantages, it is considered that she is two hundred miles nearer to Europe than is New York; that the shortest, the most direct route from the Golden Gate of San Francisco to the Old World is by the way of Boston; that a steamship is now actually being built to transport passengers from this port to England in four days' time; that Boston is the capital of the noble State of Massachusetts, within whose borders there are five millions of acres of farming and other lands, including three hundred thousand acres of rivers and lakes, one hundred and forty thousand acres of highways, five hundred thousand acres of parish, village, town, and city lots, and twenty thousand acres of railroads and railway stations, connected with all the other leading railroads of the country; that the five other New England States, of which Boston is the metropolis, contain seventeen million acres of farming and other lands; that the foresight, courage, and enterprise, which have given such impulse and solidity to the growth and prosperity of Boston, must render her onward progress rapid and irresistible,—in view of these considerations is it not manifest that but few important measures remain to be taken hereafter to enable her to maintain her high position, and

continue to be in many, if not in all, respects the first capital city in the Union?

Who can picture this commercial centre when all the splendid parks and avenues, and stupendous works now in contemplation, shall have been completed? In this marvellous age of discovery and inventions the wildest flight of the imagination would hardly go beyond the reality. . . .

But, rolling from everlasting to everlasting, these forty years of human existence — the lifetime of millions — have passed away, not lost, nor useless, nor regretted, nor forgotten, but big with mighty events on the land, on the sea, and in the sky, in no part of which events I was of moment, and but a very little of which I saw, — these years have all disappeared, vanished into the unseen depths, — the inscrutable, exhaustless, insatiable depths of eternity!

“How fast the eternal surge of time and tide rolls on!”

The story of the *res gestæ* of these forty years, like that of their predecessors, has been carried by the wings of the unwearied press to every part of the civilized world. And one can no more recount them all than he can hold in his hand the mighty ocean, or the mightier heavens above!

For myself, Mr. President and gentlemen, I can only rejoice to meet in one assembly so many of the

past and present members of the Common Councils as are gathered together on this occasion, and who, with their distinguished colleagues for the last forty years, and with their not less distinguished predecessors in service, from the first inauguration under the charter of 1822 to that of 1842, have, during a series of sixty years, given the best of their time and talents for the benefit of their fellow-citizens, freely, bountifully, and, above all, gratuitously, — without any compensation whatever. In their public sessions, week in and week out, besides countless meetings on committees, and interviews with the Police, Assessors', and other metropolitan boards, the Mayors and City Clerk, the Treasurer, Collector, and Auditor, the Superintendents, Inspectors, Commissioners, Directors, Trustees, and City Solicitors, the Clerk of Committees and other clerks, the City Architect, Engineers, Surveyors, Messengers, and other city officers so well known for their knowledge of municipal affairs, their ability and devotion to duty, and with the Reporters, as ready to impart as increase their stores of information, — in these innumerable sessions, meetings, and interviews for so many years, what an aggregate of public labor has been performed by the members of the City Council! When and where, under similar circumstances, for a continuity of sixty years, were the like beneficial results ever produced?

But I can only reëxpress to you, one and all, my sincere thanks for your repeated favors and civilities, which I can no more forget than I can your patriotic services, or the courteous bearing and ability of the eminent officers who have presided over your deliberations. And now, deeply appreciating the kindly words and labors of the Committee of Arrangements, I will, with your leave, Mr. President, tender to you, and through you to each of your colleagues and predecessors, a single sentiment.

I give you, Mr. President and gentlemen, The past and present members of the City Councils of Boston; their valuable services, so faithfully and gratuitously rendered for the advancement and prosperity of this great metropolis, entitle them to the lasting gratitude of their fellow-citizens, and constitute one of the noblest sources of pride and honor to them and their posterity for all time to come.

The address of Mr. GREGG was frequently interrupted with applause and expressions of gratification by the company. The question of acceptance of his report, playfully put by the Chair, was carried by a rousing, unanimous "Aye," and he was given a round of cheers at its conclusion, which were called for by Colonel Ezra Trull.

President PRATT said : —

Gentlemen, I have no doubt that, if never before, Dr. Green has to-night regretted that he did not begin his political career in the Common Council of Boston. However that may be, inasmuch as all our proceedings require the approval of His Honor the Mayor before they go into effect, I will ask Mayor Green whether these proceedings to-night meet with his approval. (Applause.)

His Honor Mayor SAMUEL A. GREEN responded : —

Mr. President, and Members of the Common Council, whether past or present,—I do regret that my municipal experience did not begin in the Common Council ; and, at the same time, I will say that these proceedings meet with my hearty approval. I have been particularly impressed with the lack of this experience since I have been in this hall to-night. The duty assigned to me is a most agreeable one. It is always pleasant to speak words of commendation and congratulation when they are sincere and heartfelt, as I know them to be this evening. (Applause.) And it is now a pleasant duty for me to say to Mr. GREGG, officially and publicly, that the City of Boston appreciates his long and faithful services. (Applause.) It is forty years since he was chosen to be the Clerk of the Common Council.

This is a long period of time, and covers more years, doubtless, than the average age of the present members of that body. Forty years ago the population of Boston was less than a hundred thousand inhabitants, while to-day it is nearly four hundred thousand; and the territory of the city has increased by annexation in a much larger proportion. Forty years ago the number of wards in the city was only twelve, and the Board of Aldermen consisted of eight members. Such are a few of the items of the inevitable change that has taken place, and is taking place, and will take place in the natural course of events. It gives me great pleasure on this occasion to say that the City of Boston recognizes the efficient services of Mr. GREGG, which are alike honorable to him and creditable to the city. I know that I voice the sentiment of every gentleman present when I say that it is their sincere wish and hope that his days may be long and many, and that health and happiness may follow him wherever he may be. (Applause.)

President PRATT said : —

Gentlemen, it is not our good pleasure to have with us the oldest living ex-President of the Common Council; but I have in hand a letter from him, which I will read : —

GENTLEMEN, — I regret extremely that my age and absence from the city will prevent my acceptance of the invitation, by which I have been honored, to attend the complimentary banquet given to my life-long friend, WASHINGTON P. GREGG.

Very truly and respectfully,

JOSIAH QUINCY.

June 5, 1882.

To the Chairman and Members of the Committee of Arrangements.

President PRATT. — We have, however, several of the older ex-Presidents present, one of whom, Mr. Chandler, has been obliged to leave. Of those remaining, the senior has honored the City and State as Mayor and as Governor, and in many other official positions which he has so ably and gracefully adorned. I am sure I shall be excused for asking him to give an account of himself first, and will introduce ex-Governor Alexander H. Rice. (Loud and prolonged applause.)

Hon. ALEXANDER H. RICE said: —

Mr. President, — Until a somewhat advanced hour to-day I supposed that other engagements would deprive me of the pleasure of being at these festivities. But I beg to assure you that no ordinary obstacles could have detained me from an occasion so remarkable and so inviting. I shall consider it one of the red-letter days in which I had the opportunity to join in this tribute of cordial and profound

respect to the guest of this evening, and in this public manner to express my congratulations to the people of this great city upon having enjoyed, for forty consecutive years, the services of a man about whom the lustre of increasing respect has gathered, and whose uprightness of character and devotion to his work have received such affectionate recognition and gratitude. (Applause.)

Coming here this evening and looking upon this representative assembly of Bostonians, I have had a great variety of reflections and emotions. Although I have been a pretty constant resident of Boston for the last thirty years or more, yet I should find it difficult, I suppose, to call by name more than half the gentlemen present, although I recognize the countenances of nearly all; and it seems to me, as I look upon the interchange of salutations between the young and the venerable men now present, that we can follow the line backward through the whole range of our municipal history, and recount members with us to-night belonging to nearly every year of its existence. I have even been gratified in meeting some who I thought had years ago passed on to that bourn from which no traveller returns; and in this bewilderment one may look about to see if the pedestals in front of City Hall are not vacant, indicating that Mr. Mayor

Quincy and old Benjamin Franklin have come to pay their respects to Mr. GREGG also. (Applause and laughter.) I have no doubt that they are here in spirit, if not in effigy ; and if it should be found to be true that their pedestals are vacant, we can go a little further, without much stretch of imagination, and believe that Governor Winthrop and John Adams are trudging their way from Scollay square and New Washington street in this direction, on the same errand. (Applause and laughter.)

Mr. President, it is, indeed, a rare thing, as you have said, to find a man in office who has held his place for forty consecutive years. There must be something remarkable about such a man. I can recall two sets of qualities, either of which would illustrate a man's fitness for success in anything he might undertake. One set consists of those natural gifts which are the happy heritage of some individuals, such as an aptitude for affairs, an instant and discriminating intuition which enables one to perceive the relations between cause and effect, between the thing to be done and the right and proper and just way of doing it, so that he can accomplish his work without any intermediate process of mind, so far as we can discern ; and the other set consists of that kind of qualification which comes from observation and practice, and which is summed up in the

single word "experience." A person having either of these classes of qualities, would be likely to be successful in anything, and to be an acceptable, useful, and even distinguished public officer. But we sometimes find all these qualities united in one individual; and when so united, that individual not only possesses ability for the largest usefulness, but when those qualities rest upon integrity which cannot be shaken, and uprightness that cannot be bribed nor intimidated, we have the very highest type of a man, whether he be in private life or in the public service.

Now, I would like to ask this company what possible evidence can be produced, what testimony can be borne to characteristic usefulness, what title to public honors can be presented, that shall be greater than the annual endorsement of the Common Council through a period of forty years in succession? (Applause.) Such is the testimony to the worth of the modest gentleman whose virtues we celebrate this evening, and it far transcends any verbal encomium that can possibly be uttered.

I am led also, Mr. President, if you will allow me, to say a word or two upon a subject which is kindred to this, and which I have no doubt has already occurred to the minds of many gentlemen present. We hear a great deal said in these days

on the subject of civil-service reform. (Applause.) I speak those words with entire respect, and would give them especial emphasis, as representing a subject of the highest interest to the American people. This country cannot afford to be indifferent to the question of a pure public service. (Applause.) Of all kinds of government, a republic is most largely and deeply interested in the ability and integrity of its officers. Everybody, I think, will agree to the general proposition of the necessity for purity in the public service. I care not if you put it in the words, "civil-service reform." But when we talk about reform in the civil service of this city, and I think I may say also in this State of Massachusetts, do we not borrow somewhat from the experience of other cities and States, rather than judge by results which have been realized at home? (Applause.) There is no difference, I think, on the subject of the principles involved in a pure civil service. Whatever difference obtains is, for the most part, in regard to the methods by which civil service of the highest and purest type can be attained. I do not propose to enter into a general discussion of that subject. I can only say that every man who holds a position of public trust and responsibility is bound to discharge it with intelligent and conscientious fidelity, and his tenure of

Office ought in some way to be made commensurate with his abilities and faithfulness; and within the limitations of proper authority the same rule should apply to all subordinates. The principal difficulty in the whole matter lies in finding the best method of selecting those who shall be appointed to office; and this will, no doubt, be determined by experience, aided by intelligent and candid discussion.

But I refer to this subject now for the purpose of citing the remarkable history of this city in the civil service of its officers. I believe there is no parallel to the singular purity of the civil service of the City of Boston in the annals of any city or town on the face of the globe. (Applause.) This city was incorporated in 1822, sixty years ago. During the whole of that time, there has never been a City Clerk whose name was not Samuel F. McCleary, though it covers two generations of that name. (Applause.) I wish the City Clerk were here, that we might look in his honest face, and express to him also our high appreciation of the service he has rendered to Boston, and that we might include him in those hearty plaudits which we unanimously give to our distinguished guest, the Clerk of the Common Council. (Applause.) During the whole of that period of sixty years there have been but seven City Treasurers, one of them serving only one

year, and the other six having an average term of service of ten years respectively. There have been but four Auditors of Accounts, including the present incumbent of that office. When we take into account that these officers are annually chosen to their places, and that they must receive the concurrent votes of the two branches of the City Council year after year, and that they have been thus elected simply because of the soundness of their characters and the distinguished quality of their services, I say it is a most remarkable example of a pure civil service, as well as a distinguishing honor to these officers, and to the constituencies that have annually elected them. (Applause.) I know nothing that could be said of Boston, old as she is, as city or town, that is more to her credit. I do not forget that her origin dates back in history to the very earliest days of settlements in New England; that she existed before there was county, or state, or nation, in a simple democracy of her own, supported and guided by a body of men who were laying the foundations of a new government, grander than the modern world had seen, whether they knew it or not; and who planted here the seeds from which the distinguishing features of American civilization have grown. I do not forget the influence of the illustrious men who, in succeeding generations, have

followed in the footsteps of their renowned predecessors. I do not forget those struggles for liberty which cemented with blood the foundations, and reared in hope the superstructure of the ancient town. I do not forget the promptitude and heroism which her people have shown in all emergencies, local or national. I do not forget the monuments that crown her hill-tops, and the tablets that adorn the walls of her public buildings and churches, commemorative of the virtues and valor of her people. I do not forget that fidelity in financial obligations which has sustained her credit, and won the applause of the world in peace and war. But, great as has been her historic renown in council and in the field, there is nothing in her example that shines more luminously, or that is more worthy of lasting commemoration, than that she has preserved her civil service pure, and that she has done this by recognizing and rewarding the men who have been faithful in the conduct of her municipal affairs. (Loud applause.)

I am glad to unite with you, Mr. President and gentlemen, in greeting as one of the most eminent among these, — perhaps the one preëminent, from the length, the ability, and the fidelity of his services, — the guest of the evening, Mr. WASHINGTON P. GREGG, for forty years Clerk of the Common Council. (Applause.)

President PRATT.—Gentlemen, it is hoped that not too many will find it necessary to leave. I am reminded by one of the committee that the fun has but just begun. Those who leave now will make a mistake. It was desired by the committee that the Council of each year might be answered for by some one; but it was thought that would entail too large a number of speeches, even if the five-minute rule were enforced. Now, we propose to ask for short speeches from the remaining ex-Presidents who are here, and also from certain other members whom I am sure you will all be glad to see and hear. There is one ex-President here who presided in 1855, and then after ten or eleven years' absence found the honor thrust upon him again, or else found the attraction too great for him to keep away. What there was to induce him to take a second term as President of the Common Council I cannot imagine; but I will ask Mr. Joseph Story to explain. (Applause.)

Ex-President JOSEPH STORY responded : —

Mr. President, — I am unable to say, only in the language of Scripture, — as I happened to be elected the second term by those not altogether in sympathy with me politically, — “An enemy hath done this.” (Laughter and applause.) It is not very often,

gentlemen, that we are called together under such pleasant auspices. It is delightful to come and meet our friend. And it is delightful, in coming to meet him, to meet the men who have taken part in Boston's history for the last forty years, coming together officially to exchange such pleasant courtesies as we are enabled to do to-night.

I have come here with a heart warm in sympathy for our friend. I have been delighted with his words. I had no idea, when in my seat behind this silent man, that we had in that chair one who would have been able to discuss with us, perhaps as only a few of the Council would have been able to do, any of the subjects that came before us.

We used to hear in the Council—at least the Presidents did—that our friend Mr. GREGG had the faculty of speaking out of the back of his head. Gentlemen, coming into the Council as I did, to be elected during my first term to preside, having no experience in presiding over a similar body in my life, I know perfectly well how dependent one must be upon those having experience. And I can only say that the best testimonial I have for the fitness of our friend for the position he had then occupied so many years, was to persuade and argue with my political friends in that change,—when the party that elected me was able to make a clean sweep from one end of

the city to the other, — that we needed his experience and ability in that position.

The President has said that we had taken this way to show our love and esteem for our friend; that it might have come in another form, and we might have presented to him some token of our love. I feel in my heart as though we had done that in the kindest and warmest way it is possible for one to show love and respect for his fellows. We come to-night and bring a basket of flowers to give to our friend, — a bouquet of personal friendship, fragrant with delightful memories of the friendship of forty years. What could be better than that, after these forty years of official life, we come to pay our kindly respects to our friend? I think it an occasion of great delight, and without expecting to make any remarks here to-night, I am glad to respond, and, on behalf of the Council of 1855, to pay its tribute of love and pleasant remembrances of the kindly associations with our friend. It was a delightful year to me, 1855, and also ten years later; and I congratulate myself to-night upon the pleasant occasion of meeting you, and I know that the same kindly feeling pervades the representatives of every year.

Among the most delightful associations during my official term in 1855 was to visit old Boston in England. The last day I was in my seat here before

leaving to cross the water I went to the old cemetery on Tremont street, and looked over the fence to the grave where John Cotton, the first pastor of the church of Boston, was buried; and it was with great delight, when in the old borough of Boston in England, I stood in the pulpit where that good man had preached the gospel to the people of that place as he believed it. It was an honor bestowed, not upon me, but upon this city, that the people of Boston tendered to me a public dinner in the old Guild Hall, where for five hundred years they had met for festivity and public discussion; and I received from them the kindness and courtesy as free as though I myself had been a prince. It was the delightful hour of my life, — the culmination of a delightful visit in the old country, — when, in the midst of the people of old Boston, I, as an humble son of the new Boston, could exchange congratulations. It was a time of war, when the people of England felt that the people of our country were disposed to join with Russia in interference, and possibly with aid. And when standing before them, and speaking what I knew to be the sentiment of my own countrymen as entirely different from that, and told them the hearts of our people beat only with fraternity and love toward the people of our mother country, the sentiment was received with delight, applause upon applause following its

utterance; and when, upon the start for home, I stepped forward to His Worship the Mayor of Boston, and, in token of the kindly feeling that pervaded our country and our Boston here toward England and old Boston, gave him my hand, it seemed as though they would raise the roof from old Guild Hall.

Boston: we love her; we love those who have been true to her. It is proper that we should recognize true merit and faithful service. But we find to-night that the faithful servant is also the eloquent orator. (Applause.) Mr. GREGG, you know my personal friendship toward you; we have exchanged kindly congratulations for these many years. It must be delightful to you to know that every man in authority all these forty years cherishes the same feeling. When we are deciding questions in the Council, and asking those in favor to say "Aye," and those opposed to say "No," we direct the Clerk to call the roll. How pleasant for the Clerk to know that when we put the question to-night, all in favor of testifying to the fealty and faithfulness of our Clerk to say "Aye,"—how pleasant it must be to the Clerk to know that every man is his friend, and every one approves the course he has pursued! (Applause.)

Gentlemen, allow me to join with you most cordially in extending the tokens of love and our con-

gratulations to our faithful officer,—to our dear friend. (Applause.)

President PRATT.—President Story, as well as those who preceded him, has proved the wisdom of the committee in not giving notice to any man expected to speak to-night. There are some of us young enough to be called young without trying to keep our reputation for youthfulness ; but the Municipal Register is something we cannot get back of. There is one of our ex-Presidents, who is still a young man, although he was President in 1862. Mr. Joshua D. Ball will let us look at him. (Applause.)

Ex-President JOSHUA D. BALL responded : —

Mr. President, — It affords me great pleasure to be here on this occasion, and, to the many tributes of respect which have been and will be paid to our genial friend and guest, to add my words of commendation for his long and faithful service. In the long roll of the living and the dead who have witnessed these forty years of service, there is not one among the whole number who have passed away, not one among the whole number who are living, whom he could not call his sincere friend. Forty years—two generations—have elapsed. One generation has gone since I had the honor to preside over

the deliberations of the Common Council; and I must say it was with feelings somewhat of sadness to-night that I went through the corridors, to recognize my old associates, for I found that so many had gone to their long homes. Let us forever keep their memories green. Well and faithfully did they perform the services which were allotted to them; and if they can be present in spirit here to-night, no word of commendation has fallen from the lips of any one which would not be echoed and reëchoed by them.

Nobody throughout this long period of service cared to ask, in respect to our friend, with what party he affiliated, or what ticket he voted. Thanks to the patriotism of our citizens, the only question with them was, whether he was devoted to his duty, energetic and true in his labors; and through the various vicissitudes of party which have taken place in this long period of forty years he has not only merited, but has received, a reëlection every time.

It happened to be my fortune to preside over the deliberations of the Common Council during a troublous period of our history. It was a period of storm. The first year of my service saw the inception of the civil war; in the year of my presidency civil war raged throughout the length and breadth of the land. No man was wise enough to penetrate

into the mysteries of the future far enough to foretell the result of that struggle. But, thank God, Mr. President, it was not many years after that period when the blue and the gray buried the hatchet, and shook hands of perpetual friendship over the graves of their fallen comrades. (Applause.) It was not a long period after that when our flag floated unmolested throughout the length and breadth of the land, and all acknowledged the supremacy of our common country, and all swore fealty together to one common nation. (Applause.)

Mr. President, *de mortuis nil nisi bonum* is the injunction of friendship at the tomb. It is not always the injunction of candor and sincerity; but we can truthfully say that we need no such injunction in regard to those of our associates who are numbered among the dead. Well and faithfully did they perform their duties; their memories are still fresh in our minds, and let us continue to keep them green.

I would be false to myself, Mr. President, on this occasion, if I did not, in mingling my congratulations with yours, recur to the great debt under which I was, while President of the Common Council, to our worthy guest. He had been so long in the service of the city that he had parliamentary law almost at his fingers' ends, and he was always glad, always willing,

to impart whatever he possessed upon the subject to the presiding officer of that body. I have no doubt that I voice the sentiments of all the Presidents who are here to-night, when I say that whatever success attended the performance of their duties was attributable in no inconsiderable degree to the many kind and timely suggestions upon questions of parliamentary law which were given by our worthy guest, — never obtruded, but always willingly proffered when sought. (Applause.) May his life be spared for many, many years to come. May all his memories of the past be pleasant and agreeable. May he, in the retrospect of life, find no step which he would like to efface; and may the future, with its coming vicissitudes and its alternate light and shade (which is the fate of every mortal), be as bright, as brilliant, and as cheerful as the past. (Applause.)

President PRATT. — I propose to vary for the moment the order of calling upon gentlemen to make remarks by asking one of our ex-members present if he hasn't something to say for the later Councils. I will call upon our friend Mr. Henry W. Swift, who ought to have been a President, and might had not the discovery that he is a poet come too late. (Applause.)

Mr. SWIFT said : —

Mr. President, — I had no idea my turn was coming so soon. I remember at commencement at Harvard College hearing the President say there were two kinds of men who made valuable instructors, — young men, and men who never grow old. I am sure he would have included our guest of this evening in the latter class. (Applause.) It is fortunate for the Common Council of Boston that the President of the University never got hold of our worthy friend, for I am sure if he had he would never have let him go.

Before I sit down I want to read a few lines which I saw in one of the newspapers (Laughter) lately, that seem appropriate to this occasion: —

This fusion of years is delightful,
This blending of ranks in the call
To express our regard, as is rightful,
For him who is one of us all.
How quick was each ticket investor,
Three dollars to borrow or beg,
To attend at the feast of our Nestor,
Our kind-hearted friend, Mr. GREGG.

He has stood like a tree in a meadow,
While year after year passed away, —
The Councils that grew in his shadow
Successively turned into hay.
And the leaves he has cast from him yearly
Are records. The new ones are now
Sprouting forth, while the whole of us nearly
Have been stowed away in the mow.

The past forty years in their flitting
Have not been to him forty thieves :
His virtues upon him are sitting
As fresh as the oak's summer leaves.
Here's a health to the city's true server !
I wish that each glass were a keg !
To express the affectionate fervor
We feel for our friend, Mr. GREGG.

PRESIDENT PRATT. — There is one of our ex-Presidents here who served in the Council in 1863 and 1864; and my own private opinion is they didn't have half as much difficulty with committees as they do now. I will ask Hon. Geo. S. Hale to explain how that was. (Applause.)

Hon. GEORGE S. HALE said : —

I am not quite sure whether a quorum is present or not. But I believe it has been decided that it is not the duty of the President to ascertain that fact.

I am sorry, Mr. President, you did not give me a little more notice, not that it makes me unwilling to speak, but because I might have done you and myself more credit. Just now, in regard to the material for a speech I am somewhat in the situation of a boarding-house described to me by some "Cape Codders" a few days ago. "They give you nothing to eat in that house," said one. "No," said the other; "nothing, and mighty little of that, either."

I am sure I should be very sorry when my time came if I was not ready and prepared to give the best words I have to this tribute to my old friend, and to the friend of us all. I have had the pleasure of knowing him for a considerable part—I will not venture to say how much—of the period of his service. This assembly certainly, as I perceive from its cordial reception of every expression of kind feeling towards him, needs no evidence of his merits, and fortunately every one of us is a personal witness to his success in the performance of every duty.

As my predecessor said, however, those of us who shared his assistance and were guided by his counsels had a special means of knowing his familiarity with our duties and his capacity to advise us. The great English orator spoke in rather a different connection of the power *behind* the throne, which he criticised. For us there was always a welcome power before the throne, to which we were glad to appeal for aid.

Many years ago, when I first had the pleasure of being a member of this body, I was struck with the declaration that it was "a very remarkable Common Council,"—one of the most remarkable, every one said, there had ever been. I was quite young, and I accepted it. Afterwards I came in again, and heard the same declaration ; and after that I served

another year, and heard it again; and I soon learned that each successive body was the most remarkable that had ever been selected by the citizens of Boston to represent them. It is, therefore, with great humility I am here to bow before the Common Council of 1882, which has this vast accumulation of eloquence and ability. And when I remember that our friend has seen them rise, "rank behind rank, in surges bright," I have an added conviction of the skill with which he has ministered to them.

Before we leave, gentlemen, I hope it may not be unfitting or inconsistent with the gayety of this occasion to remember those no longer with us and identified with the past, — many of them the intimate friends of our honored guest. We cannot go back so far as perhaps we might like to go in our reminiscences, — to our first President, whose father went to the battle of Bunker Hill in his dressing-gown. Perhaps Mr. GREGG remembers him. Do not smile, for I remember him too. I remember Judge Prescott. I saw him as an old man. I remember his dignified and gracious manner, his calm and noble face, and I presume there are others here who share with me that pleasant reminiscence.

I would like, if there was a quorum present, to go on with some further reminiscences of those men who assisted you in honoring this body, — to recall

that gracious and able Chief Justice who began his career in your body; that genial merchant who has been represented here by his nephew, the Mayor, and who represented with honor his country at the court of St. James; the eloquent orator, the graceful writer, who preceded even Mr. Story, who preceded Mr. Rice in his presidency of this body, — one of the most eloquent and graceful writers of our day. But I will not detain you with the past. As I began to speak of them, I hope you will permit me to give the toast of "Honor to the memory of the dead who have honored the Common Council of Boston."

President PRATT. — Some of our past Presidents have left the room, whom I expected to call upon to give an account of themselves and their Councils. But there is one who presided in 1868, who is dangerously near the door, and I ask Mr. Charles H. Allen to give us a few remarks before he leaves.

Hon. CHARLES H. ALLEN said :—

Mr. President, — I could not shrink from rising to my feet and responding upon so pleasant an occasion as this. I have received no more pleasant invitation to be present upon any occasion than this one

in honor of our distinguished Clerk of the Common Council, whose services have been spoken of to-night. I do not know how I should have been able to go through with the duties of the office to which I was so kindly elected in 1868, had it not been through the able and efficient services of the Clerk of the Common Council.

Not long ago I had the honor of uniting in a celebration somewhat similar in its character to this. It was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the election of the Clerk of the State Senate, Mr. Gifford, a man who has been faithful to his trust, and received an unbroken endorsement for twenty-five years, and stands high in the estimation of those with whom he has been associated, the same as does our friend Mr. GREGG. It was said, in connection with Mr. Gifford, that a gentleman, once a member of the Common Council of Boston, who happened to be a member of the Senate, and whose name it is not, perhaps, desirable I should mention here, — but you may recognize him, when I say he keeps a hotel in the central part of the city, and belongs to the Democratic order of politicians, — some one asked him one day, knowing he was a great admirer of the Clerk, who wrote the Lord's Prayer, and he answered, very promptly, Stephen N. Gifford. I think if some of the members of the Common Coun-

cil were asked the same question, they would answer,
WASHINGTON P. GREGG.

I am very happy to be here, and unite with you in paying respect to my friend and to your friend. I hope he may continue to remain in this office so long as God shall give him health and strength. (Applause.)

President PRATT. — Gentlemen, I am going to skip to the other end of the list of Presidents and call upon some of the younger ones. I am sorry to see that ex-President Bailey has retired ; but his predecessor is still "present," according to the construction of law which prevails at City Hall now. I call upon ex-President Harvey N. Shepard.

Ex-President SHEPARD said : —

Mr. President, — At this hour, and in this presence, I will not tax your patience with any extended remarks. I have enjoyed this evening exceedingly to meet my associates and friends of this and preceding Common Councils, and especially to shake the hand of Mr. GREGG. I am happy to say I found his greeting just as warm and cordial as it used to be in the past. I think a great deal of praise is due to the man who first suggested the idea of having this testimonial to Mr. GREGG, after forty years' honorable service, without a blemish or stain.

It certainly is true that very few, except those who have been called to preside over the Common Council, know of the extent, skill, and industry with which Mr. GREGG is blessed. I never found him wanting in courtesy, and, with the modesty of true merit, he never obtruded his opinion ; but when asked he gave it frankly, and usually it was fortified by some valuable precedent.

During the forty years he has given to the service of the City of Boston he has seen a great many changes in this city. It has become, he might say, a new city. Its hills have been tumbled into the sea ; its bays and hollows have been filled up. Why, this very place where we are gathered to-night was, even in my childhood, a spot where water flowed save when driven back by the tide. It is an experience given to very few men to witness so many changes as have taken place since he has been Clerk of the Common Council.

During the two years I have been in the Legislature it has been my part to speak for the Common Council of Boston, and especially to defend it against unwarranted attacks. I wish that those who took part in the criticisms of the Common Council of Boston could look with me upon the gentlemen who are gathered here to-night. I think they would agree with me in a short time that no city in the

world has been blessed with a better government than Boston has had.

Mr. GREGG took part in the celebration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of our city ; he also took part in the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary. In all probability he will not take part in the celebration of the three hundredth anniversary ; but we do hope he will be spared to the city, and that many summers will come and go before we shall miss the light of his countenance.

President PRATT. — Mr. Whitmore, of Ward 12, desires to know whether there is a quorum present or not, and we will ascertain that fact by this request. I will ask him to give us a few words ; for if any one present can call in the members from the anterooms he can. (Applause.)

Ex-President WILLIAM H. WHITMORE said : —

Mr. President, — I am glad to find that my predecessors who have spoken have failed to notice one remarkable point wherein the Presidents of the Common Council resemble our distinguished guest. Mr. GREGG, as Clerk of the Common Council, takes no part in its deliberations, and it is a well-known fact that the President of the Common Council, like the

Speaker of the House, is never allowed to join in debate or come upon the floor. To the best of my recollection, in my five years of service, there has never been an instance of a President, except in a somnambulistic state, descending from the chair to take part in debate.

When I look around upon my predecessors, and notice the steady and mournful depreciation which has taken place in the occupants of the chair, I have some consolation in the fact that there are three of my successors, and that they are, of necessity, so much nearer the small end of the horn.

Governor Rice said that coming here seemed like the resurrection; and certainly when we heard the statistics Mr. GREGG has given us, some of us felt that the recording angel had been sitting in judgment for forty years, noting all the expenditures which the Common Council had voted. I think one of the best services our friend has rendered is that he has brought to our presence this evening so many of our associates of past years. It is a delight to me to see in the flesh persons whom I knew only by the records of antiquity, — the members of thirty, forty, and fifty years ago, who were myths to the Councilmen of to-day, — and I am glad for once to have been able to lay my eyes upon them.

The statement has been made in the papers, and I

presume you have all read it, that they have discovered in France a means by which electricity sufficient for all purposes can be stored in bulk, to be given out as needed. We have discovered in Mr. GREGG such an intellectual machine. For forty years he has been accumulating facts, and when the electric touch has been applied to him he has given forth the greatest possible illumination for our gratification and instruction to-night.

President PRATT. — Gentlemen, we are meeting with success among the younger men on the list as we go backward. The next preceding administration was that of Mr. J. Q. A. Brackett. (Applause.)

Ex-President BRACKETT said : —

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Common Council, — Although, during the period that I had the honor to be a member of the Common Council, I sometimes had the temerity to address my fellow-members, I must confess that in standing in this presence, in response to your kind invitation, it is with somewhat of a feeling of trepidation. As Napoleon told his soldiers in Egypt that forty centuries were looking down upon them from the tops of the Pyramids, so I feel that forty Common Councils are looking upon me from the tops of these

tables; and you must understand that it requires forty times as much fortitude to speak to forty Common Councils as it requires to speak to one.

I have looked forward with great pleasure to this occasion, and it certainly has been equal to the anticipation. I looked forward to it because being glad to unite with others in paying this deserved tribute to Mr. GREGG; and, in addition to this, because having a personal interest in the occasion, for the reason that this night closes my fortieth year of terrestrial existence, it having been my fortune to be born upon the eighth of June, 1842. So you see that to me this is a fortieth anniversary in a double sense. I mentioned this coincidence to a friend, and he had the presumption to suggest that the difference between Mr. GREGG and myself was that, while he had been *serving* the public for forty years, I had been *burdening* it for the same period.

This is a remarkable gathering, as has been said by another, by reason of its representative character.

As I have looked about upon this vast assemblage of present and former members of the city government and seen so many who have taken, and are taking, a leading part in nearly all the departments of our city life, the thought has occurred to me that if this building should suddenly be blown up by dynamite, or some other similar agency, and all those here

assembled be transferred to another sphere of existence, the City of Boston might find it a difficult thing to get along for some time to come. This occasion is memorable also as an evidence of the ability and fidelity with which our guest has discharged the trust committed to him, and of the appreciation of these merits by his fellow-citizens. It is no ordinary thing for a public man to hold the same position uninterruptedly for forty years. The man who succeeds in doing it is no ordinary man. His success in accomplishing it, and in accomplishing it as our friend has done, entirely to the satisfaction of the people, is worthy of public commemoration. The fact that he has served the city for this long period is a proof of the application by our citizens of correct civil-service principles to their municipal government. The remark of Governor Rice, in this connection, that the city never had a City Clerk whose name was not Samuel F. McCleary, reminded me of an expression made by him some years ago in a letter concerning the then proposed new city charter, — an expression of the same tenor, but with an addition. It was that “the City of Boston never had a City Clerk whose name was not Samuel F. McCleary, the synonym of probity and honor.” Although we cannot exactly say that the Common Council never had a Clerk whose name was not

WASHINGTON P. GREGG, we can truly make the addition that the name of WASHINGTON P. GREGG, like the name of Samuel F. McCleary, is the synonyme of probity and honor.

We can say, in the words of another, that if the Common Council *never* had a Clerk whose name was not WASHINGTON P. GREGG, it *hardly* ever had one who did not bear that name. The first Clerk of the Council bore the appropriate name of Clark, — Mr. Thomas Clark, — who served eleven years. His successor, Richard G. Waitt, served ten years, until the city attained its twenty-first year; and then, having reached its majority, it showed the good judgment which comes with maturity, by electing Mr. GREGG, and it has displayed the same good judgment by continuing him in office ever since.

He has kept his place, not by practising the arts of the politician, not by the dispensation of political patronage and favors, not by the exercise of partisan influence, not by attempting to secure the election of men who would be favorable to his interests, but simply by doing the work entrusted to him faithfully, efficiently, and modestly. In addition to this, he has always treated his fellow-citizens with an unfailing courtesy. He has never shown, in his dealings with others, any of the false pride and arrogance with which an office oftentimes affects its occupant. If he

were a younger man there might be danger of his being inflated with an unseemly pride by the good words of commendation spoken to-night. But they will have no such effect upon him. He has heard so many similar words spoken during his long term of service that he has become used to it; and if you meet him to-morrow you will receive the same courteous treatment, and observe the same characteristics, which make him, in a more marked degree than any other man I know, a representative of that honorable class of men known as "gentlemen of the old school."

It was my fortune to be President of the Common Council during the centennial year, and the remembrance of that experience gives me a strong attachment for centennials. But we cannot have centennials every year. The next best thing is a semi-centennial, and I hope that in ten years from now we shall have the privilege of celebrating the semi-centennial anniversary of the election of our friend to the office of Clerk of the Common Council.

President PRATT then read the following :—

JAMAICA PLAIN, May 9, 1882.

MR. ALVAH H. PETERS :—

DEAR SIR, — Your invitation to dine with past and present members of the Common Council, on the 7th of June, has been received.

I was a member of the Common Council in 1822,—the first year of the City Government, and an Alderman in 1830. I was born December 28th, 1790, and my health does not admit of my accepting your invitation.

With many thanks to the gentlemen who have so kindly invited me,

Respectfully and truly your friend,

MOSES WILLIAMS.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

COUNCIL CHAMBER, BOSTON, June 7, 1882.

ALVAH H. PETERS, Esq.:—

DEAR MR. PETERS,—I am, indeed, extremely sorry to announce to you that it will be impossible for me to be present this evening, to take part in the dinner to be given to our worthy friend, WASHINGTON P. GREGG, Esq. When I purchased my ticket of you yesterday, I did not anticipate any disappointment would arise to refrain me from attending.

Therefore I shall ask you to excuse me for my absence on this grand and special occasion; and would be most happy to be there to participate with you and our friends in expressing our gratitude to our worthy guest for the long and valuable services he has rendered our beloved city. Few men have rendered more important or honorable service in her behalf; and I am confident you will all unite with me in saying that no one has discharged the various duties thereof with more courtesy, fidelity, and ability.

Long may he live to enjoy the confidence and esteem to which he is so justly entitled, and to occupy the same position, if he lives for years to come. Again, I regret very much not to be with you to-night to participate in the privileges and pleasures of this occasion,—there to meet so many old friends, with some of whom I have been acquainted for many years,—there to exchange congratulations on the continuance of our lives.

Remaining yours, very respectfully,

M. J. FLATLEY.

PRESIDENT PRATT. — It was my intention to call upon the last remaining ex-President of the Council to give us the closing sentiment (ex-President HARRIS); but I shall now call upon our friend who barely escaped being President, from whom, by an accident, perhaps, that honor was deferred. I call upon Mr. Roger Wolcott to end this impromptu speaking.


MR. WOLCOTT said : —

Mr. President, — I cannot make an after-dinner speech. In my own family, which consists very largely of three small boys, whenever one of them is stricken with infantile ailments, which are the terror of every family, he is given what is called Pratt's Toast. It is well buttered, very soft, and is given in sudden sickness. Now what distemper the President sees in me to justify this treatment to-night, I cannot tell. I can only infer that it may be because he and I were once upon opposite sides of a certain question. I am sorry to see the President has cherished this malice.

It has been my good fortune to be a member of the lower house of the Legislature of Massachusetts. We have found there a certain willingness to have a whack at the Boston clique. It has been thrown at our heads that members of the Common Council

often eat dinners, at the expense of the city, costing sixteen dollars a plate, and we are told they have a new hat thrown in. To the best of my recollection, I never got a sixteen-dollar dinner nor a hat. I hope our experience this evening will show that we can get a good dinner for three dollars a plate.

Certain members of the Legislature have looked upon the City of Boston as a sort of Sodom and Gomorrah. My service in the city government has led me to believe, and to express the belief, that for a city of its size Boston has been and is well and honorably governed. I believe that a majority of the members sent to the City Council go there in the spirit of honest intention to serve the city to the best of their ability. In the years I was there we used sometimes to say that the Common Council might be called the firm of Whitmore, Shepard, McGaragle, & Coe. The Coe has gone, but two of the others have been sitting together to-night in a bacchanalian familiarity which is very pleasant. While there may be sharp differences of opinion in the Common Council, I am sure we all look back upon our service in that body with feelings of great satisfaction. We form many acquaintances and make many valuable friends. Among the most valued of the associations which I owe to my connection with the city government, I shall ever cherish



he memory of the constant and kindly attentions of the gentleman who sits, sir, at your right this evening. As one of the recent members of the Common Council, I wish to say, speaking for myself and all those with me then, that we heartily concur in every word that has been said in the form of cordial respect and affectionate sympathy and regard for the guest of the evening. (Applause.)

President PRATT.— Gentlemen, my duty is ended. I have endeavored to strike the best sparks of expression I could from those who were present, in an unwarned and informal way. I have passed over many whom I would like to have called up, and whom you would like to have heard. But the lateness of the hour prevents my repairing errors, if any have been made. In conclusion, when we disperse to-night we shall have to bid our honored guest and friend on my right not a farewell, but a good-by,— in the phrase of the day, we will see him later. We hope we shall see him on Thursday nights in the Common Council chamber for many years to come, and that we may have the honor and pleasure of extending to him a similar banquet on the fiftieth anniversary of his entrance upon the duties of his office. (Applause.)

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APPENDIX.

The Boston daily papers—*Advertiser, Globe, Herald, Journal, Post, Star, Transcript, and Traveller*—of June 8th contain generally full reports and notices of the Banquet.

The following extracts are condensed from several columns, principally from the *Boston Herald*:—

Forty Years Clerk of the Boston Common Council. — Complimentary Banquet at Hotel Vendome. — Rare Gathering of Past and Present Councilmen.

The banquet complimentary to Mr. WASHINGTON P. GREGG, for forty years Clerk of the Boston Common Council, came off at the Hotel Vendome last evening. Following a meeting of the Common Council of this year, a couple of months or so ago, the members of that body held a meeting in one of the anterooms of the Council Chamber at City Hall, and decided to tender to Mr. GREGG, who, with the beginning of the current year, had entered upon his fortieth term of continuous service as Clerk, a dinner, at which should be present, so far as their attendance could be secured, all the surviving members of the Common Councils of the city since 1822, the year of Boston's incorporation. In accordance with a plan then and there agreed upon, notices were sent out, inviting all past and present mem-

bers to signify whether or not they could attend the proposed dinner. Numerous favorable responses were received to the invitations, and the committee, finding the success of the affair assured, announced that the banquet would take place at the Hotel Vendome on the evening of June 7th (yesterday). The hour set for those intending to participate to assemble was six o'clock. Accordingly, shortly before that hour last evening, the parlors and corridors of the big hotel on Commonwealth avenue began to fill with people come to do honor to Mr. GREGG, and to commune and commingle once again with old associates and acquaintances. Soon nearly, if not quite, three hundred persons were present. The buzz of conversation and mutual congratulations filled the halls of the hostelry, and the veteran Clerk, whom so many people delight to call their friend, was the constant centre of dense groups of people, eager to clasp his hand and testify their esteem and good wishes for his welfare. In the throng were many well-known Bostonians, prominent in political, social, and business life, rarely; indeed, any building in Boston having held at one time so many representative citizens. There were men of all walks and conditions of life, from the genial ex-Governor Rice, the recipient of many political honors, to the fledgling in politics, serving his first year in the lower branch of the city government; from the Mayor of our city to past, present, and future aspirants for the office he holds; from the representatives of Beacon Hill to those of less fashionable sections of the city; from the solid business man, long retired from political life, to him whose talent has yet his fortune to make; from the white-haired veteran to him who still stands upon the threshold of life; and there were many other contrasts besides. All those persons who were assembled together, however, seemed to vie in doing

honor to the quiet, modest man who stood in their midst. At seven o'clock the doors of the large dining-room in the hotel were thrown open, and the company took seats at the tables. The latter had been arranged, four extending lengthwise down the hall, and one across the head of the room. In the alcove back of the latter were placed two small tables, at one of which sat the reporters of the daily press, and in the alcoves at the sides of the room were other tables. Every seat was taken. At the centre of the table across the head of the hall, sat President Pratt, of the Common Council of 1882, who presided, and, on his right, the guest of the evening. At the left of the President sat Mayor Green. Seated at the same table were past Presidents of the Common Council. At the other tables sat the past and present members of the Council, and the City Messenger and his assistants. The tables had been decorated with flowers for the occasion, and presented altogether a handsome appearance. The flowers had been contributed by City Forester Doogue, who was also present at the dinner.

At the conclusion of the gustatory exercises President Pratt called the company to order. He modestly introduced the guest of the evening, highly eulogizing the latter, and referring to the prompt and hearty cordiality which had greeted the proposition to tender him a testimonial of the esteem and high regard in which he is held. Said the President, in conclusion: "Our dear young friend still! We love him, we honor him, and we take this method of letting him know it."

As the Clerk rose from his seat he was the recipient of a perfect storm of applause, cheer after cheer ringing through the room. He was very eloquent in his remarks, and was given three cheers at their conclusion. Others made appropriate remarks, and the enjoyable exercises were brought to a close.

Mr. GREGG carrying with him to his home the heartiest assurances of the good-will of all who had participated therein. It was close upon midnight when the company dispersed.

The list of those present included, as may well be understood, many men who have been foremost in public affairs in this city, and the character of the gathering would have done great honor to any man to whose worth it could have been intended as a tribute.



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